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US to require vaccines for all border crossers in January

By ZEKE MILLER November 24, 2021

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WASHINGTON
(AP) — President Joe Biden will require essential, nonresident travelers crossing U.S. land borders, such as truck drivers, government and emergency response officials, to be fully vaccinated beginning on Jan. 22, the administration planned to

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which the White

House previewed
in October, brings
the rules for
essential travelers
in line with those
that took effect
earlier this month
for leisure
travelers, when
the U.S. reopened
its borders to
fully vaccinated
individuals.

Essential
travelers entering
by ferry will also
be required to be
fully vaccinated
by the same date,
the official said.
The official spoke
to The Associated
Press on the
condition of
anonymity to
preview the
announcement.

The rules pertain
to non-U.S.
nationals.
American citizens
and permanent
residents may
still enter the U.S.
regardless of their
vaccination

status, but face

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es because

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spread COVID-19
and in order to
encourage them
to get a shot.

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The Biden
administration
pushed back the
requirement for
essential travelers
by more than two
months from
when it went into
effect on Nov. 8
[for non-essential
visitors](#) to
prevent
disruptions,
particularly
among truck
drivers who are
vital to North
American trade.
While most cross-
border traffic was
shut down in the
earliest days of

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Even with the delay, though, Norita Taylor, spokeswoman for the trucking group Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, criticized the vaccination requirement, calling it an example of “how unnecessary government mandates can force experienced owner-operators and independent truckers out of business.”

“These requirements are another example of how impractical regulations will send safe drivers off the road,” she said.

The latest deadline is beyond the point by which the Biden

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vaccinated or
tested weekly
under an
emergency
regulation issued
by the
Occupational
Health and Safety
Administration.
That rule is now
delayed by
litigation, but the
White House has
encouraged
businesses to
implement their
own mandates
regardless of the
federal
requirement with
the aim of
boosting
vaccination.

About 47 million
adults in the U.S.
remain
unvaccinated,
according to
figures from the
Centers for
Disease Control
and Prevention.

Associated Press
writer David
Koenig in Dallas
contributed to
this report.

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